

equals about five minutes on the Iraq clock), leaving precious little for much else.

And while there is no denying the need to keep the homeland secure, throwing money at terrorists won't make them go away. Lawmakers trip over themselves to obtain "anti-terror" grants by the boatload for local police and fire departments, never mind that the "terror" link can be sketchy (last week it was \$90,000 to the Portsmouth Fire Department for sprinklers). If we allow our nation terror obsession to drive this nation to financial ruin, the terrorists win anyway.

We already pay dearly, and loss of this dredge project is but one small example. The Westport Harbor channel may not be of "great national significance" but it is no less than a lifeline for people here.

**RECOGNIZING DELTA M. JACKSON  
DORSCH EDUCATOR, VIRGIN ISLANDS  
TRADITION BEARER ON  
ATTAINING HER 90TH BIRTHDAY**

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 20, 2005*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Delta M. Dorsch on attaining her ninetieth birthday. Ms. Dorsch is one of the outstanding educators of the Virgin Islands educational system, and a "Tradition Bearer" of our oral cultural "Anansi" stories, which is a continuation of the African oral tradition.

Ms. Dorsch was born and raised on the island of St. Croix, where she received her elementary and secondary education in the local public school system. Ms. Dorsch traveled to the U.S. mainland to further her education and received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Education at Central Michigan University. Before returning home she received her graduate and post graduate degrees at New York University and Columbia Universities respectively, with an emphasis in Supervision and Administration of Schools, and also studied International Education at the University of London in England and at the University of Heidelberg in Germany.

Delta Dorsch served for more than thirty-eight (38) years as a teacher in the Virgin Islands school system and in a supervisory capacity as Deputy Commissioner for Curriculum and Instruction. She was also an Instructor of Elementary Education in both undergraduate and graduate programs at the University of the Virgin Islands; and was Chairman of the Board of Directors for the St. Dunstan's Episcopal School. In addition to addressing educational components in her various positions, she also used them to stress the importance of preserving our traditional values and cultural heritage to parents, teachers and students.

This dedication to duty and approach to life combined in having Ms. Dorsch as the recipient of numerous service awards from civic and community organizations. The most noteworthy to her was having the Elena Christian Junior High School's Honor Society named in her honor.

The Anansi stories, part of the African oral tradition, have been an integral part of Virgin Islands culture and tradition for centuries. These stories were told around campfires in slave quarters and later on, in yards and villages, by giving insects and animals human

qualities to weave an interesting story that always had a moral ending. The stories have always been enjoyed by our youngsters, the moral lessons staying with them throughout their lives, and unfolding as morals tend to do, when we experience the lessons of life. This was an aspect of our folktale culture and tradition that was on the verge of extinction. The fact that they are still a vibrant part of our culture today is due to the efforts of Delta Dorsch in keeping them alive.

In recognition for preserving this part of our culture and tradition, Delta Dorsch was among the Tradition Bearers from the Virgin Islands that participated in the Smithsonian Institution's Senegal Folk Life Festival that was held here on the Mall in Washington, D.C. in 1990. This event enabled her to proudly communicate our tradition and culture to many visitors from around the world that attended the Festival. Ms. Dorsch's recent contribution to Virgin Islands History was authoring the book "The Role of the Storyteller in the Preservation of Virgin Islands Culture" and its accompanying video.

There is an old adage that behind every great man there stands a woman. This was proven true in the marriage between Delta and Frederick D. Dorsch. Mr. Dorsch served and enriched our Virgin Islands community in many capacities: Humanist, Educator, Dramatist, Civic Enthusiast, School Superintendent of the Virgin Islands, and as Chairman and Member of the Virgin Islands Municipal Council.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I salute Delta M. Jackson Dorsch on attaining her ninetieth birthday, for her dedicated service to the United States Virgin Islands as an Educator and Preservationist of our Tradition and Culture.

**HONORING WATHAGENE BAILEY**

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 20, 2005*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Wathagene Bailey of Groveland, CA. She will be honored for her years of service to her community at the Tuolumne County Republican Women Federated Meeting on Monday, March 28th.

As a child, Wathagene moved from Galena, Kansas to Fullerton, CA. While in southern California, she met Elmer Bailey on a blind date and the two married on November 23rd, 1963. Shortly after their marriage, Wathagene opened up a foster/day care in Mountain View, CA. Later, she worked for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co., eventually attaining the position of Supervisor. Lastly, Wathagene worked in the Insurance Billing Department for the Los Gatos Community Hospital, where she retired at age 60 to move with her husband Elmer to Pine Mountain Lake in California's Tuolumne County.

Wathagene Bailey has been known to be extremely involved in her community. She was a Girl Scout Leader and helped many girls earn their merit badges. She is a member of the Tuolumne County Central Committee. She served as President of Tuolumne County Republican Women Federated and Director, First President, Second Vice President, and Parliamentarian of the California Federation of Republican Woman—Central Division.

Wathagene has two daughters, Devora and Cheryl, and three grandchildren, Aaron, Heather and Naomi.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Wathagene Bailey for her years of service to her community. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Wathagene many more years of continued success.

**HONORING SPALDING G. WATHEN**

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 20, 2005*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor posthumously Mr. Spalding Wathen of Fresno, CA. Mr. Wathen was one of the most respected people throughout California's entire Central Valley for his success in the building industry and for his sincere humanity.

Spalding Wathen was born in Fresno, CA on March 1, 1925. Mr. Wathen dutifully served his country as a U.S. Navy pilot in World War II. He graduated from Roosevelt High School and then University of California, Berkeley in 1949, with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He was a member of the Chi Epsilon and Tau Beta Pi Engineering Scholastic Fraternities and graduated in the top of his class. For almost 60 years, he built over 10,000 homes and apartments, and has developed more than 60 subdivisions throughout the Central Valley.

Mr. Wathen he obtained his general contractor's license in 1950 and his real estate broker's license in 1953. He was Chief Executive Officer of Wathen Brothers, Headliner Homes and Mansionette Homes. In addition, Spalding Wathen was a four-time President of the Building Industry Association, was inducted in the West Coast Builders Association Hall of Fame in 1996, and was one of a select few builders who received the Oscar Spano Award for Lifetime Achievement.

His numerous donations include the Fresno State University Tennis Center, land on which St. Agnes Medical Center was built, the ten-acre site for Holy Spirit Catholic Church, and site for St. Patrick's Church in Merced. He was a founding member of the Board of Directors for the Bank of Fresno and was a lifetime member of the Central California Bowling Hall of Fame.

Mr. Wathen is survived by his wife, Della Ann Wathen, five daughters, six grandchildren, two brothers and two sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize posthumously Mr. Spalding G. Wathen for his extraordinary impact on his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Spalding Wathen.